



Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

Twin Cities Metropolitan Council, MN

BACKGROUND

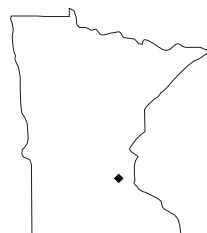
EPA awarded the Twin Cities Metropolitan Council (TCMC) supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. The TCMC oversees redevelopment for the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area (population 2.2 million), which includes the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. TCMC has formed a partnership with the Minnesota Environmental Initiative (MEI) and the Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity to create a model for developing multi-unit affordable housing on brownfields. There is a great need for affordable housing in the area. There are over 185,000 households in the area with annual incomes below \$30,000 that are paying over 30% of their income for housing. In addition, there are 68,900 renter households with annual incomes below \$10,000, but only 31,200 affordable rental units at this income level.

The goal of the TCMC is to positively influence land use in Minnesota by making redevelopment of contaminated properties an attractive option for non-profit organizations. Under the original EPA Pilot, TCMC has completed the assessment of seven properties. Four affordable homes have been built on these properties by Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. The program is a model for turning small, single-property brownfields into opportunities for non-profit organizations to build affordable housing. In addition, the efforts of the Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity to revitalize brownfields will serve as a model for other Habitat for Humanity affiliates throughout the country.

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

This supplemental grant will be used to expand the original Pilot to build the capability of other non-profit organizations to redevelop brownfields for a variety of community revitalization uses, such as community centers, recreational space, and energy efficient buildings. Supplemental assistance will be used to provide financial and technical assistance for environmental assessments and

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Twin Cities Metropolitan
Council, Minnesota*

Date of Announcement:
May 2002

Amount: \$ 150,000

Profile: The Twin Cities Metropolitan Council, in partnership with the Minnesota Environmental Initiative and various non-profit organizations, will target and assess properties for reuses that feature innovative designs consistent with preservation of affected neighborhoods.

Contacts:

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U.S. EPA Region 5
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Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

investigations. Non-profit organizations that are accepted into this project will work with the TCMC and MEI's Resources for Redevelopment (R4R) to select, assess, and investigate sites for redevelopment. Projects that feature innovative designs consistent with preservation of affected neighborhoods will be accepted into the project.

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Selecting at least six properties and conducting Phase I assessments;
- Preparing Phase II work plans and conducting Phase II assessments on two of the properties;
- Coordinating and communicating with all partners and interested parties throughout the process; and
- Conducting community outreach and involvement activities.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.